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takes exception, and for the reason, as he asserts, that it would be practically impossible to find an instance in which the party faction clearly represents the original civic aristocracy and the other the conquered country nobles.

After telling us what Lombardy is, and briefly describing its geographical features, with special reference to the location of the several cities which dot this great northern plain, he then explains those movements by which the Bishops began to acquire temporal authority, a clear understanding of which is so essential in tracing the rise of republican institutions in Lombardy. In the opinion of the reviewer the beginnings of the free republics of this region are nowhere more clearly and concisely set forth than in the first four or five chapters of this work.

The Lombard League, in its struggles with the Emperor Frederick, claims at least six chapters, or near one-half of the book. Through a consideration of the party strifes of Guelf and Ghibeline which follow the wars of the League, we have it clearly set forth, without too much detail, how the despots at length appeared upon the scene as real liberators, who temporarily, at least, rescued the land from the destructive violence of party strife. We have, indeed, in this work a scholarly and readable account of the later mediæval centuries of northern Italian history, through which we pass directly into the important period of the Renaissance.

The illustrations of the work are excellent, directing attention in the main to the architecture of the period. The well-drawn maps are intended to represent territorial boundaries, within the region under consideration, at intervals of about thirty years from the beginning of the thirteenth century to the middle of the fourteenth.

E. L. STEVENSON.

**Le Morvan.** Étude de Géographie humaine. Par le capitaine J. Levainville, Docteur de l'Université de Bordeaux. 305 pp., 44 figures et cartes, 40 phototypies et 4 dessins hors texte. Armand Colin, Paris, 1909. Fr. 10.

The features which make a geographical unit of the Morvan "country" are mainly negative; it is the country deprived of all that makes the neighboring countries attractive. While it has never formed a political or ecclesiastical province—a circumstance which it has in common with several of the most important "countries" of France,—its location and extent are determined by a consensus of popular opinion which, all over the adjoining countries of Nivernais and Burgundy, designates the hilly solitudes which separate the latter as the "bad country" in opposition to their own prosperity and possibilities. War has never penetrated into these hills, where no booty of any value would reward the victor; nor, on the other hand, has the progress of modern thought and civilisation. Its only connection with the fate of the larger country was made through the soldiers which it furnished to the armies of the King, and the wood that was shipped from the forests to heat the people's homes. Geologically, Morvan is one of the "old" countries of France; it belongs to the belt of crystalline rocks which traverses France from Brittany to the Vosges, and its boundaries correspond on the West, North, and East, to the line of contact—often enhanced by faults—between these "primary" rocks (*e. g.*, Archæan to Permian) and the sedimentary rocks of "secondary" origin; toward the South the line of demarcation is less distinct. A border zone of liassic remnants adjoins the Morvan proper on the North and East; the lower northern half (Bas Morvan) is an old dissected peneplain in process of rejuvenation, while the southern and

highest part (Haut Morvan) was formed contemporaneously—and, perhaps, in connection—with the chains of the Alps.

These natural differences are reflected in the economic aspects and conditions of the respective regions. The liassic limestones of the border zone make comparatively good soil, which is productive of meadows and fields; the settlements, obliged to cluster around the wells and springs, form large villages, and the limestone used in the construction of the houses gives the landscape an aspect of gaiety which is not found elsewhere in the country. Buttes and mesas of hard limestone introduce a picturesque element into the scenery and betray, at the same time, the existence of a former peneplain worn down almost to base level. In the Bas Morvan, too, the present topography is the work of erosion. Its rocks are mainly gneisses and granites, and the width of the valleys and the heights of the hills are in proportion to the greater or lesser resistance of the rock material. Seen as a whole, the surface is gently undulating; in the gneiss districts the valleys are broader and the humps more numerous; the valleys are well drained and the waste of the hills has made comparatively good soil in the bottoms (*ouches* in the vernacular). The granite rocks make steeper slopes often strewn with large boulders. The water often stagnates in the bottoms; hence ponds are frequently found there and the fields are poor; the slopes make pastures, and woods of crippled oaks cover the hilltops. The population, finding water all over the country, is under no compulsion to crowd around any special place for its sake; on the contrary, the poor soil necessitates larger farms, and the utilisation of every square foot of tolerable quality. Hence the settlements are scattered all over the country, and the distances between the cheerless, low, grey, thatched houses increase as the quality of the soil decreases.

The Haut Morvan is composed mainly of eruptive rocks of carboniferous origin, and of Devonian schists and quartzites. Under the combined action of Tertiary uplift and of erosion its topography has become quite diversified. Its principal characteristics are the numerous valleys or basins of an almost square shape which owe their origin and form to the two diametrically opposite directions of the Alpine uplift. Their bottoms are occupied by the settlements, while the hills are covered with pastures, heaths, and woods.

The climate of Morvan is rougher than it ought to be by virtue of its geographical location, because the chilling effects of altitude are reinforced by the excess of moisture on the impervious soils. Woods and forests predominate, therefore, and in many "cantons" they are to-day as untouched as they were in Roman times. There are 75 acres of woodland per inhabitant in this country, against 25 acres per inhabitant for the whole of France. In the past the export of wood for fuel, especially to Paris, used to be its chief means of sustenance; but since the introduction of coal and kerosene for fuel, this modest industry has experienced a heavy drawback which is especially hard for the small landowners who can, or will, not combine to control the prices. Necessity has obliged the people to try their soils for agricultural purposes, and by means of fertilisation and a scientific rotation of the crops, as good results have been obtained as may ever be expected of a "bad" country.

More satisfactory have been the experiments at utilizing the land for pastures. Horses, cattle, and pigs have proved good sources of income to their breeders. The lack of good roads is, however, even now a great obstacle to real progress, for, owing to the bad connection with outside centers, most of the trading is still done at local markets where oversupply keeps the prices down.

A new, and very profitable, industry has been introduced since 1842, namely, that of nursing. Almost every wet-nurse in Paris is a native of Morvan. This business has reacted, however, as a check on the natural increase of the otherwise very prolific, population, through the increase of infant mortality among the nurses' own children. On the other hand, it is about to establish an interesting exchange of city and country population. According to the custom of French urbanites to have their children brought up at the nurses' homes in the country, many of these women take their wards to their native villages, and having once grown up there, quite a number of the latter remain and settle in the country. This influx seems so important that fears have already been expressed lest the native race, hitherto exceptionally pure in its isolation, be altered, in a future not very distant, through the assimilation of so much foreign blood. As far as numbers go, this increase is more than compensated for by the number of those nurses who become acclimated in the city and cause their families to follow them. Besides these permanent migrations, there are temporary exodi of the Morvanders as season laborers in the adjoining countries, whose dates for the performance of the various stages of farm work are considerably in advance of the mountains. Thus, the Morvander often goes through a regular cycle of labor, rising and descending as the season requires: in Jan. and Feb. he is a woodcutter at 600 m. above sea level; from the end of Feb. to the beginning of April, he floats or rafts wood at 350 m.; from the latter part of April to the middle of June, he labors in the fields at or below 200 m.; then he rises again to 450 m. to take care of his own fields until the beginning of July; from then to the middle of August is harvest time at 200 m.; from then to the middle of Sept. the same in Morvan; from then to the middle of October, vintage in Burgundy; from then on to the end of the year, fall sowing and general work about the farm on his own ground. The money earned abroad, by the laborer as well as the nurse, is invested in improving their homes and their standards of life both of which are sorely in need of it, owing to the combined power of poverty and ignorance.

As another of the series of French monographs published by Armand Colin, the book is worthy of its predecessors, both with regard to what it teaches the reader about its subject, and the pains taken by the publishers in making type, pictures, and maps, as excellent as possible. MARTHA KRUG GENTHE.

**Mythen und Erzählungen der Küstenbewohner der Gazelle Halbinsel (Neu-Pommern) im Urtext aufgezeichnet und ins deutsche übertragen von P. Jos. Meier, M.S.C. xii and 291 pp. Druck und Verlag der Aschendorffschen Buchhandlung. (Anthropos-Bibliothek, Band I, Heft 1.) Münster i. Wien, 1909.**

To those whose geography of the western Pacific has been practical, the memory needs no long flight to recall a period when New Britain was almost wholly unknown. Twenty-five years ago, the adventurous voyager who pushed up St. George's Channel beyond the Duke of York group was sailing quite into the uncharted seas, unknown lands and wild races of men. Such fragments of information as were available were to be found only by diligent search of the geographical journals, and even in the case of so earnest an explorer as Wilfred Powell, were found to apply but poorly to the terrain itself.

Now New Britain is coming into knowledge. Germany has annexed the islands in that sea, and has given to the archipelago and to all its islands new and German names. Hence in the title of Father Meier's book we find Neu-